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pipe is in position it will be at an angle of forty-five degrees. This prevents the water or the contents of the egg from running back and making a muss on the bench.

"Whenever I have any eggs to attend to, I take a basin with a little water in it and place the stand beside it, with the post overhanging the edge. Then push a blowpipe through the hole in post and couple it to the tube in bulb with a piece of small, thin rubber tube, perhaps an inch long. I like this arrangement better than sticking the bulb on the end of the blowpipe for two reasons: it is easier, and it does not wiggle the pipe and endanger a fragile egg. It takes about two minutes to set up and take apart the whole concern.

Of course such an outfit is not practicable for blowing in the field. I have now two perfect glass blowpipes that I have carried over ten thousand miles in cars and in stage."

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#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The reports received are of such a varied character that it has been found impossible to present this report in any thing but a general way. Before a systematic report can be made on the migrations it will be necessary to gather in a greater and more carefully prepared mass of notes. It is but fair to say that a large number of the notes used in this report were sent in response to a circular issued, calling for general rather than specific notes.

In the present report an attempt has been made to trace the distribution of each species east and west, north and south, without burdening the report with a mass of details. We have not sought to accomplish any thing beyond estimating the Fringilline fauna of each locality from which notes have come, and the relative abundance of each species. With the small number of localities represented nothing more than an approximation of the geographical distribution can be presented. In the report which is to follow we hope to have every state east of the plains

between the Gulf and Ocean, and the Lakes represented. If this be accomplished we shall be able to trace each species from north to south, and from east to west wherever it is to be found, with a comparison of its distribution in every state.

The present report contains notes from Texas, Iowa, Wis., Ills., Ohio, Penn., N. Y., Conn., N. Carolina. I wish to express my gratitude to the gentlemen who have contributed notes to this report giving it whatever of value it may possess: Messrs. John A. Donald, Texas; Reuben M. Strong, C. P. Howe, J. N. Clark, Allan W. Carpenter, Wis.; F. A. Gregory, F. M. McElfresh, Ills.; J. Warren Jacobs, Penn.; D. D. Stone, N. Y.; John H. Sage, Conn.; S. W. P. Smithwick, N. Carolina. Notes have also been received from Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penn.; H. P. T. Weather, West Farmington, Me.; Willard Eliot, Thonotosassa, Fla. These notes are reserved for the report which is to follow upon the more specific migration and distribution.

We desire a complete list of the Fringillidæ from every member, with the statement as to whether it is a migrant (T. V.), summer resident (S. R.), winter visitant, (W. V.), resident, (R.), or accidental visitor (A. V.); and also the abundance of each species. With these general notes send any and all notes upon migration, giving exact dates in every case, and also notes upon breeding. *We want exact notes!*

514. *Coccothraustes vespertina*. Evening Grosbeak.

This Grosbeak is known as a wanderer; occurring in a place in great numbers at one time and not being seen again perhaps for years. And yet there are localities where it may be expected to pay nearly regular winter visits. Mr. Strong finds it to be an irregular winter visitor near Milwaukee, Wis., being seen from Oct. 15 to rarely as late as Apr. 18, usually in small numbers. Mr. J. N. Clark reports it to be a common W. V. from Nov. to Mar. at Meridian, Wis. Mr. McElfresh captured a female Mar. 18, 1891, at Champaign, Ills. At Grinnell, Iowa, I have seen

but few. A small flock was seen during the spring migration of 1886 and a single flock of twenty Dec. 11, 1886, but none since. At Oberlin, O., the bird is an A. V. (accidental visitor.)

515. *Pinicola enucleator*. Pine Grosbeak.

Although not accidental like the last, nor of wandering habits, this is yet not a well known bird to our observers. It appears from the extreme north only during cold winters. Mr. Strong considers it rare at Milwaukee, Wis., while Mr. Clark, at Meridian, Wis., finds it to be common from Dec. to Mar. Mr. D. D. Stone also finds it common at Lansing, N. Y. At Grinnell, Ia., it is rare, but few specimens having been taken. At Oberlin, O., it is also a rare W. V.

517. *Carpodacus purpureus*. Purple Finch.

The Purple Finch is pretty well known to all observers. Its song, no less striking than its rich colors, makes it a conspicuous object of the woodland. Mr. Strong considers it an irregular T. V. at Milwaukee, and rare. But Mr. Clark records it as a common migrant at Meridian. Mr. Gregory finds it at Rockford, Ills. Mr. D. D. Stone finds it a common S. R. at Lansing, N. Y. Mr. J. W. P. Smithwick finds it a common T. V. as far south as Sans Souci, N. C. Mr. John A. Donald says that it is accidental at Decatur, Texas. Both at Grinnell, Iowa and Oberlin, O., I have found it a common T. V., often associating with Goldfinches.

521. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. Am. Crossbill.

All observers consider this species rare. It is a hardy bird, and, like the Evening Grosbeak, is much of a wanderer. Mr. Strong says that it is irregular in winter, some times occurring in great numbers, at Milwaukee; Mr. Clark finds it a rare W. V. at Meridian; Mr. Carpenter enters one Apr. 11, 1891, on the authority of Mr. E. P. Carlton at Madison, Wis. Mr. Stone marks it "rare W. V." at Lansing, N. Y. It is not common either at Grinnell, Iowa or Oberlin, O., though there are usually a few seen each winter.

522. *Loxia leucoptera*. White-winged Crossbill.

Both Strong at Milwaukee, and Stone at Lansing, N. Y., find this bird a rare W. V. In Iowa and Ohio it is also a rare W. V., not as well known as the preceding. It seems to be almost an unknown quantity among observers.

528. *Acanthis linaria*. Red-poll.

Another northern species which visits our northern observers only during the coldest weather. Mr. Strong found it common during the winter of 1889-90, but none 1890-91. Messrs. Clark at Meridian, Wis. and Stone, at Lansing, N. Y., find it abundant from Nov. to Feb. Red-poll comes sweeping into central Iowa in immense flocks during cold stormy weather. I have seen hundreds on the weeds by the roadside while snow was being driven by a north-west gale. At Oberlin, O., it is only a tolerably common winter visitor.

529. *Spinus tristis*. Am. Goldfinch.

Who does not know the Goldfinch? The variety of its local names suggests familiarity. It is the "Flaxfinch," "Thistle-bird," "Wild Canary," "Yellow-bird," "Lettuce-bird," "Salad-bird," "Sunflower-bird." It is an ornament to every door-yard. It is an abundant S. R. at Madison and Milwaukee, Wis., and an abundant resident at Lansing, N. Y. At Meridian, Wis. Mr. Clark finds it common all the year, as it also is in Iowa and Ohio. It is perhaps more common during the summer. In Ills. it is common with Mr. Gregory. At Sans Souci, N. C., Mr. Smithwick finds it during the winter only; while Mr. Donald, at Dacatur, Texas, says, that while some individuals remain all winter, the most go further south, all coming from the north. At the last two mentioned stations Goldfinch would naturally not remain to breed but migrate north; but at all the other places we should expect it to be resident. It may not be out of place to mention the fact that Goldfinch changes his plumage to a plain drab in winter, and that his general appearance and even his voice is often so different from his summer habit that he might easily be mistaken for some other sparrow. To you more

northern observers who have hitherto found him only in summer allow me to suggest that it would be of great interest to make a careful study of Goldfinch and see if you do not find him in winter also.

533. *Spinus pinus*. Pine Siskin.

This is one of the little known but interesting sparrows, rather northern in its habitat. Mr. Strong finds it irregularly at Milwaukee, Wis. Mr. Stone records it as tolerably common in winter at Lansing, N. Y. It is common during the migrations both at Ginnell, Iowa and Oberlin, O. Its song once learned, there is no difficulty in recognizing it.

534. *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Snowflake.

Of all the sparrows, Snowflake is undoubtedly the one which we are most glad to see. Sweeping down upon us like the advance guard of an army, themselves the forerunner of the driving snow-storm, they are life in the death cold. Their songs are like angel voices from the black angry clouds. It is truly an inspiration to watch an immense flock, such as sweeps down upon Milwaukee and Meridian, Wis., and Lansing and Pittsburgh, N. Y., as it swirls and eddies in the van of the storm among the first falling flakes. In Ohio I have never seen such a sight, but in Iowa it is not rare. Their southern range is about 39°, rarely they have gone as far as 35°; hence our southern observers could hardly expect to find this interesting sparrow at their homes.

536. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Lapland Longspur.

It is commonly considered to be true that Snowflake is replaced by this Longspur at the south; but there is no note made of it by Southern observers. Doubtless they are too far south. It is an irregular winter visitor at Milwaukee, but common at Meridian, Wis., from Oct. to Apr. in stubble fields, occurring in large flocks. It is also common at Grinnell, Iowa, during the winter, but rare at Oberlin, O.

537. *Calcarius pictus*. Smith's Longspur.

This Longspur seems to have escaped our observers entirely. It is so common at Grinnell, Iowa, during the winter and late into the spring that it is a conspicuous

feature of the bird fauna. Its note is distinctive, and its colors attractive. I find a note in the *O. & O.* Vol. XIII, p. 95, of the capture of two specimens of this Longspur at Garrettsville, O., Jan. 29, 1888, by Mr. Clark P. Streator. The note is interesting from so far east.

538. *Calcarius ornatus*. Chestnut-colored Longspur.

If we would learn more of this interesting Longspur we must work on the plains, for it very rarely reaches the Mississippi river in its eastern movement. Mr. Donald finds it in winter as a common bird at Decatur, Texas. Once only have I found it at Grinnell, Iowa; during the spring of 1887 when there seemed to be a general eastward movement of all species. Then a flock of several hundred remained about Grinnell for several weeks. Many were in full plumage and full song.

539. *Rhynchophanes mccownii*. McCown's Longspur.

Like the last this is a bird of the plains. Mr. Donald finds it abundantly at Decatur, Texas. It was one of the species which wandered east during the spring of 1887, reaching Grinnell, Iowa, March 3. The flock of about 20 departed the 8th.

540. *Poocætes gramineus*. Vesper Sparrow.

As we have reason to expect, this wide-spread species is pretty fully reported upon, and is evidently well known to all. It is an abundant summer resident at Milwaukee, Meridian, and Waukesha, Wis., as reported by Messrs. Strong, Clark, and Howe, also at Lansing, N. Y. But only common at Madison, Wis., Waynesburgh, Penn., Rockford, Ills., and Grinnell, Iowa; while at Decatur, Texas, it is only a tolerably common winter visitor. It is abundant at Oberlin, O., during the migrations, but I have not found it breeding.

542a. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. Savanna Sparrow.

At Meridian and Madison, Wis., this is a rare summer resident. At Lansing, N. Y., common; at Portland, Conn., as found by Mr. John H. Sage, common in summer but abundant in fall; at Sans Souci, N. C., tolerably common

in winter ; and at Decatur, Texas, tolerably common. I have found it to be common both in Ohio and Iowa, as a summer resident.

545. *Ammodramus bairdii*. Baird's Bunting.

For this interesting bunting there are but two records. Mr. Donald considers it a common migrant in Texas, and I have found it at Grinnell, Iowa. It is another of our birds which inhabit the plains.

546. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. Yellow-winged Sparrow.

It is surprising that a bird of such wide distribution as this one should be so little known. All observers consider it rare. At Waynesburgh, Penn., and Portland, Conn., it is a rare S. R. ; and at Decatur, Texas, a rare migrant. Mr. Gregory finds it at Rockford, Ills. It is not common at Oberlin, O. ; but really abundant in central Iowa. Its song is distinctive.

547. *Ammodramus henslowii*. Henslow's Sparrow.

Another obscure bird of the Miss. Valley. It is a common summer resident at Grinnell, Iowa. It will doubtless be found by observers in Ills., Wis., Mo., Kan., and Neb. Its delicate little voice is easily drowned by the louder prairie voices.

548. *Ammodramus leconteii*. Leconte's Sparrow.

This is also a Miss. Valley species, being found in Ills., Mo., Kan., Neb., Texas and the states bordering the Miss. river. It is not uncommon in central Iowa.

549. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Mr. Donald was so fortunate as to capture this bird at Decatur, Texas, Jan. 28 and 29, 1890. It was accidental there, since the species is confined to the S. E. Atlantic and Gulf states.

549a. *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*. Nelson's Sparrow.

Mr. Sage is the only observer who has found this sparrow, strangely enough at Portland, Conn., when it is considered a Miss. Valley bird. He finds it only as a migrant in Sept. and Oct.



549b. *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*. Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Like the last, the one record is from Mr. Sage, Portland, Conn. It is a rare migrant, found only in Sept. and Oct.

550. *Ammodramus maritimus*. Seaside Sparrow.

Mr. Smithwick is the only observer to record this maritime species. He finds it rarely at Sans Souci, N. C. in winter.

552. *Chondestes grammacus*. Lark Sparrow.

It is interesting to notice the eastern limit of this species. At Waynesburgh, Penn., it is rare; at Oberlin, O., not common; at Rockford, Ills., and Milwaukee, Wis., common; and at Grinnell, Iowa, and Decatur, Texas, abundant. Messrs. Clark, Carpenter, and Howe consider it rare in Wis.; doubtless they are in an unfavorable position to study it. We thus see that the true home of the Lark Sparrow is the Miss. Valley, breeding everywhere.

553. *Zonotrichia querula*. Harris's Sparrow.

It is unfortunate that there are not fuller notes upon this, the largest of our sparrows. It would be interesting to trace its range from east to west. Unlike the last, this bird does not breed within our limits. At Meridian, Wis., Mr. Clark says it is a "straggling T. V." In central Iowa it is a common T. V., while at Decatur, Texas, it is an abundant W. V.

554. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. White-crowned Sparrow.

This species is also more common west and north than in the extreme east and south. Mr. Sage says that it is a rare migrant at Portland, Conn., and Mr. Donald does not consider it common at Decatur, Texas. Messrs. Strong and Clark report it as a common migrant in Wis., and Mr. Stone as the same at Lansing, N. Y. In Iowa it is common both in spring and fall, but much less common in Ohio.

558. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow.

This is one of the well known sparrows throughout nearly the whole range of our observers. It is a true migrant except in its extreme southern range, where it remains all winter. Strong and Carpenter report it abundant in Wis.,

Gregory and McElfresh common in Ills., Sage common in Conn., Smithwick common in N. C., but Donald rare in Texas. It is abundant both in Iowa and Ohio.

559. *Spizella monticola*. Tree Sparrow.

There is no more familiar figure of the winter landscape than the Tree Sparrow. It is interesting to note how far south we may expect to find him. Messrs. Strong, Clark, and Carpenter report it as abundant in Wis., Jacobs abundant at Waynesburg, Penn., Stone common in N. Y., and Sage common in Conn. Mr. Strong is the only observer who does not find it all winter. It is abundant all winter in both Iowa and Ohio. Thus we see that our more southern observers have not found it at all, and yet it is usually found as far south as 34°. Mr. Donald is just below its southern range.

560. *Spizella socialis*. Chipping Sparrow.

All except Mr. Donald send reports upon Chippy. Every where it is "conspicuously present" and well known. Four observers from Wis.—Strong, Clarke, Howe, Carpenter—report it as abundant. Messrs. Gregory and McElfresh find it common in Ills., Mr. Jacobs says it is abundant in western Penn., Mr. Stone says the same for N. Y., while Mr. Sage regards it as only common in Conn. All of the above observers report it as a summer resident. Mr. Smithwick finds it all the year at Sans Souci, N. C. In Iowa and Ohio it is an abundant S. R.

561. *Spizella pallida*. Clay-colored Sparrow.

This bird is so easily confounded with other species of this genus that one might easily overlook it. I found it rather common at Grinnell, Iowa, but secured no positive evidence of its breeding in the vicinity. It doubtless does further west and north. This is one of the Miss. Valley species.

563. *Spizella pusilla*. Field Sparrow.

This sparrow is one of those upon which nearly all agree; and the disagreement, when there is any, is due to the difference of geographical situation rather than to any inconsistency of the bird itself. Messrs. Clark, Carpenter, and

Howe agree that it is abundant in Wis., but Mr. Strong regards it as only common at Milwaukee. Mr. Gregory finds it in Ills.; Mr. Jacobs says it is abundant in western Penn.; Mr. Stone, common in N. Y.; Mr. Sage, common S. R., rare R., in Conn.; Mr. Smithwick, common R. at Sans Souci, N. C.; Mr. Donald, abundant W. V., common R., at Decatur, Texas. It is a very abundant S. R. both in Iowa and Ohio. Thus we see that, northerly, it is a summer resident, while at the south, and even in Conn., some individuals are found during the whole year.

567. *Junco hyemalis*. Black Snowbird; Junco.

We naturally associate Junco and Tree Sparrow together; but their range is not just the same, as will be seen from the following reports: Messrs. Strong, Clark, Howe, and Carpenter report it as abundant in Wis., Messrs. Gregory and McElfresh find it in Ills.; Mr. Stone says it is abundant in N. Y. All of these gentlemen report it as a migrant. In Iowa and Ohio it is the same. But Mr. Smithwick finds it commonly all winter at Sans Souci, N. C., and Mr. Donald says it is abundant all winter at Decatur, Texas. Thus its wintering limit is below that of Tree Sparrow, and consequently its southern range is further south.

580b. *Peucea ruficeps eremæca*. Rock Sparrow.

This rare south-western sub-species is recorded by Mr. Donald as accidental at Decatur, Texas. It has been found at other places in Texas also.

581. *Melospiza fasciata*. Song Sparrow.

So well known a sparrow as this calls forth reports from every quarter. We can hardly get beyond its range this side of the mountains. Messrs. Strong and Carpenter report it abundant all summer in their localities in Wis., but Messrs. Clark and Howe consider it only common. Mr. Gregory is well acquainted with Ills. birds. Mr. Jacobs says it is an abundant S. R. but rare R. at Waynesburgh, Penn.; while Mr. Stone says it is an abundant S. R. only in N. Y. Mr. Sage lists it "R. common S. R." Mr. Smithwick finds it only in winter in N. C., and Mr. Donald

as a migrant in Texas. It is an abundant S. R., never R., in both Iowa and Ohio in the northern part.

583. *Melospiza lincolni*. Lincoln's Sparrow.

The similarity of this species to the last, together with its scarcity in many places, causes it to be pretty generally overlooked. Mr. Stone thinks he has found it as a rare S. R. at Lansing, N. Y. Mr. Donald finds it a rare migrant in Texas. I have found it tolerably common in Iowa, but uncommon in Ohio.

584. *Melospiza georgiana*. Swamp Sparrow.

The numbers in which Swamp Sparrow is found seems to depend upon the local surroundings. Thus, in Wis., Messrs. Strong and Carpenter, at Milwaukee and Madison, find it an abundant S. R.; while Messrs. Clark and Howe, at Meridian and Waukesha, find it only common. So also Mr. Jacobs records it as rare in western Penn., while it is common in Ohio, and common also with Mr. Stone in N. Y. Mr. Sage records it as abundant in Conn. Everywhere thus far, and in Iowa, it is a S. R.; but Mr. Smithwick finds it only in winter in N. C.

585. *Passerella iliaca*. Fox Sparrow.

Another well known bird of wide distribution. Messrs. Strong and Clark say that it is a common migrant in Wis.; Mr. McElfresh finds it in Ills.; it is a common migrant in Iowa and Ohio; Mr. Stone says it is rare in N. Y.; Mr. Sage that it is common in Conn.; Mr. Smithwick finds it common in winter in N. C.; and so does Mr. Donald in Texas. It breeds north of our borders.

587. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Towhee; Chewink.

North of Texas Towhee is only a summer resident. In Texas Mr. Donald says it is found only in winter. In Iowa it is abundant, and also in Ills., according to Messrs. Gregory and McElfresh. In Wis. it is abundant at Madison (Carpenter), common at Waukesha (Howe), and Meridian (Clark), and tolerably common at Milwaukee (Strong). In Ohio it is abundant; but Mr. Stone says of it, "very rare S. R. in N. Y."

593. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Cardinal.

This interesting species scarcely comes far enough north to be seen by many of our observers. It is resident wherever found. I have seen but one at Grinnell, Iowa. Mr. McElfresh finds it common in Ills. ; and it is common in Oberlin, O. Mr. Donald says of it at Decatur, Texas : "Common S. R. ; more common in winter."

595. *Habia ludoviciana*. Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Our southern observers do not find this Grosbeak at all. In Iowa it is abundant in summer. All four Wis. observers list it as abundant S. R. ; likewise Gregory and McElfresh in Ills. Mr. Stone says it is a rare S. R. in N. Y. In Ohio it is common all summer.

597. *Guiraca cærulea*. Blue Grosbeak.

This southern Grosbeak has been found by Mr. Donald as a rare S. R. at Decatur, Texas. It migrates north to southern Ills.

598. *Passerina cyanea*. Indigobird.

Another species unknown to the southern observers, but a conspicuous figure in northern woodlands. Messrs. Strong and Clark say that it is a common S. R. in Wis. ; Mr. Carpenter finds it rare at Madison. Mr. Gregory finds it in Ills. In Iowa it is a common S. R. ; not so common in Ohio. Mr. Stone says it is a common S. R. in N. Y.

601. *Passerina ciris*. Painted Bunting ; Nonpareil.

The range of the Nonpareil closely corresponds to that of the Blue Grosbeak. Mr. Donald finds it a common S. R. in Texas.

604. *Spiza americana*. Dickcissel.

The records for this very interesting little bunting are few indeed. It is decidedly more numerous west than east. In Ohio it is a rare S. R. Mr. Gregory finds it in Ills. Mr. Strong records a single specimen taken near Milwaukee by Mr. Akely, June 9, 1890. In Iowa Dickcissel is our most abundant bird. Mr. Donald records it as an abundant S. R. in Texas. The range of this bunting is changing. It will be interesting to note its progress.

605. *Calamospiza melanocorys*. Lark Bunting.

We have only Mr. Donald's record for this bird of the plains. At Decatur, Texas, Mr. Donald says it is rare. It has never been found in Iowa.

LYNDS JONES,  
Chairman of Committee.

Mr. Frank L. Burns is preparing a very interesting and valuable report for the Oological Committee, of which he is the chairman.

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## CONSTITUTION OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CHAPTER, A. A.

### ARTICLE I. Name.

The Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association.

### ARTICLE II. Object.

The promotion of American Ornithology and Oology by systematic investigation and the publication of the results.

### ARTICLE III. Membership.

Membership shall consist of Active and Associate members.

Active members only can vote and hold office.

Any student of birds in the United States may be admitted to Associate membership by the President.

Active members shall be limited in number by the Executive Council; provided that the number shall not exceed one hundred, or be limited to less than twenty-five, except by a majority vote of the Active members.

Active members shall pay annually, in advance, one dollar to the Secretary of the Chapter, for which amount they shall receive the official organ and all publications of the Chapter.

Active members may be admitted semi-annually by a majority vote of the Active members, after recommendation by the Executive Council.

Application for Active membership should be made to the Secretary.